

Subject: Re: Fwd: N2O
To: Steve George <sageconsulting@bossig.com>
Cc: Gordon Jay <wsdf@msn.com>
From: CN=Thomas Eaton/OU=R10/O=USEPA/C=US
Submit Time: 10/9/2012 15:23:49

Hi Steve,

Thanks for the information, I know EPA has supported low/no till farming for many years as it has several environmental advantages. It is good to see it is being employed by more farmers.

In follow up to my meeting with dairy producers in Yakima, I have been trying to track down a study that was referenced and thought maybe you could help. I believe it was Stu Turner who referenced a "10 year study of local dairy lagoons that concluded that due to the self sealing nature of manure that lagoons don't leak". I have not been able to find such a study. The only local study of lagoons that I could find is the following study conducted by WDOE in 1992 that reached the opposite conclusion:

<http://www.yakimacounty.us/gwma/documents/library/92e23.pdf>

If you know of the study can you send me a link to it?

One comment that I do take issue with Steve, is your statement that EPA is vilifying the dairy industry. If it had been our intent to vilify the industry we would have done things very differently. We could have issued a unilateral order to the dairies and announced it at the release of the report. Instead we met with them two times before we released the report to discuss the terms of a binding consent agreement. We are still committed to work out the terms of a consent agreement by the end of November. We also incorporated messages into our press release that emphasized that the dairies were working cooperatively with us to resolve the problem.

Hopefully we can all focus on what is needed in the valley to stop practices that are significantly contributing to groundwater pollution. While it is good to see the county putting in public water supplies for areas that are high in nitrates, the better solution and reason for the GWMA is to protect groundwater quality so it is all drinkable.

Tom Eaton
Director
Washington Operations Office
USEPA, Region 10
360-753-8086

Steve George ---10/03/2012 07:45:45 PM---Tom: I thought you might be interested in this exchange between one of our Yakima dairy producers an

From: Steve George <sageconsulting@bossig.com>
To: Thomas Eaton/R10/USEPA/US@EPA
Cc: Gordon Jay <wsdf@msn.com>
Date: 10/03/2012 07:45 PM
Subject: Fwd: N2O

Tom:

I thought you might be interested in this exchange between one of our Yakima dairy

producers and Gary Pruitt, administrator of the Yakima Clean Air Agency. As Dan points out, the dairy industry is again on the cutting edge of using new technology that not only makes the farm more efficient, but also is a positive environmental practice. It is obvious that your agency is way behind the curve in knowing how farms operate. One would have thought that taking some time to understand current local ag operations would have been paramount to your in-depth review of the groundwater situation.

As I'm sure you are aware and had planned, your public meeting made the front page of our local paper who reporting a fairly negative tone toward the dairy industry. If EPA had issues with how dairies operate it would have been nice to have had discussions and technical reviews of the practices before going public with a conclusion that was not backed up with solid facts.

It was not the fault of our local dairies that state and local governments did not feel the groundwater contamination situation was acute in the past. However, Yakima County should be congratulated on their efforts to have rural public water supply sources installed. They have worked on sites they felt qualified, for years. One was recently installed in the Parker area which is just south of Yakima. They have had the Outlook area identified and were held up because of funding, not that they did not work on the issue.

Dept of Ecology had a similar dilemma. The dairy industry asked for a GWMA to deal with groundwater nitrates a few years ago and were turned down, again because of the lack of funding.

Now your agency is vilifying the dairy industry and for what reason? These farms are some of the best run in the country, and produce some of the healthiest products that we all consume, all done at the lowest prices found in the world. Open dialog will solve more problems than any regulatory action ever will.

Steve George
SAGE Consulting Services
350 Hoff Rd.
Moxee, WA 98936
509-457-3850
Fax 509-575-6536
sageconsulting@bossig.com

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Dan DeGroot" <Dan@SKYRIDGEFARMS.COM>
Date: October 3, 2012 6:09:42 PM PDT
To: "Steve George" <sageconsulting@bossig.com>, "Jason Sheehan" <jason.sheehan@ymail.com>

Subject: Fwd: N2O

Begin forwarded message:

From: Gary Pruitt <gary@yrcaa.org>
Date: October 3, 2012, 12:36:21 PM PDT
To: Dan DeGroot <Dan@SKYRIDGEFARMS.COM>
Subject: RE: N2O

Thanks, Dan. It'll be interesting to see how this all plays out in terms of cap and trade.
N₂O is a big value GHG.

Gary

Clean Air Is Everyone's Business.

From: Dan DeGroot [<mailto:Dan@SKYRIDGEFARMS.COM>]
Sent: Friday, September 28, 2012 2:52 PM
To: Gary Pruitt
Subject: N2O

FYI. As our Nutrient Management Plans have progressed in the valley most dairies are realizing the advantages of low/no till farming. So even though we get no carbon credits yet for this practice, dairies have again been shown to be leaders in Ag practices that reduce farming emissions.

Dan DeGroot
Skyridge Farms

Helping to Feed the World

<http://www.climateactionreserve.org/2012/06/28/new-agriculture-offset-protocol-expands-opportunities-for-farmers-to-participate-in-the-carbon-market/>